Mat-Su Monitor
Matanuska-Susitna College
April 2009

PARAMEDIC PROGRAM

"BOLDLY GO WHERE YOU HAVEN'T GONE BEFORE." STAR TREK PHILOSOPHY

by Jane Deuster

Mat-Su College proudly announces its new Paramedic Program. The coordinating efforts of the Mat-Su Borough Emergency Services (EMS), the Anchorage Fire Department, and the Mat-Su College have proven successful with the 2009 launching of the Associates of Applied Sciences in Paramedic Technology. This program will be considered a South Central degree with the academic strength of UAA behind it. As such, this program will be building on the quality and integrity of the existing Kenai Peninsula College program.

The goal of the Paramedic Technology Program is to create quality paramedics in the State of Alaska. This program focuses on teaching problem solving, critical thinking, and medical skills. It also promotes professionalism, ethics, and service. Medical experts from the Mat-Su Valley, the Anchorage Bowl, and across the state will share their knowledge in the classroom settings.

Paramedic students will spend their clinical hours in area hospitals including Providence, Alaska Regional, Alaska Native Medical Center, and we will be working toward adding Mat-Su Regional Hospital. Many thanks to those hospitals for opening their doors to our Paramedic students!

There are 16 slots available in this competitive program. The prerequisites are as follows: 1) current EMT status with the State of Alaska or the National Registry of EMTs, 2) submission of a course application to MSC's A.A.S. Paramedic Program, and 3) completion of College Anatomy and Physiology 1 & 2 (BIOL 111/112) with labs. Be sure to submit applications early as this can be a time consuming process!

Paramedic students eat and breathe emergency medicine for two years during this intense program. The Paramedic A.A.S. Degree requires 68 credits, including 48 credits of Paramedic Technology and the general AS classes, giving them a solid background in math and written and oral communication skills. Students will also complete three semesters in intensive paramedic core class work along with hundreds of hours of hospital clinicals. They will travel to the lower 48 and do ride time in high volume and aggressive EMS services where they will get hundreds of hours working alongside experienced paramedics and taking care of a variety of patients. Students will return to Alaska with strong patient care skills and intensive experience. Finally, they will take a National Registry paramedic practical exam at UAA along with a computerized national written exam. The graduates will be highly trained individuals instilled with strong skills and background knowledge of emergency medicine, and a professional demeanor that will be needed in this competitive field of emergency medicine.

Kathy Griffin

Graduates will be qualified to perform a comprehensive physical examination, administer medications, integrate pathophysiology principles, maintain a patient's airway, oxygenate and ventilate a patient, monitor and treat cardiac dysrythmias, and formulate and implement a treatment plan for trauma and medical patients.

Local training in the Paramedic Technology Program will help to supply highly qualified and trained graduates into the local hire organizations. The state will be rewarded with individuals who have a vested interest in their own community. See the website for specific requirements and additional information: http://www.matsu.alaska.edu/paramedic/

Kathy Griffin is teaching the Paramedic Technology Program and she is a welcome staff member to the Mat-Su College faculty. She began working here in January to help create the new Paramedic Technology A.A.S. Degree. She moved to Kotzebue, AK from Orlando Fl. in 1992 and worked as a Special Education teacher and a volunteer firefighter/EMT, her two favorite avocations. Kathy was Regional EMS Training Coordinator at Southern Region EMS Council and a member of the State EMS Training Committee. She then moved to the State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and served as the State Training Officer in their Preparedness section where she taught many of the same communities that she had come to love while working with them through SREMSC.

Kathy's goal is to help Alaskans pursue their EMS dreams. She is enthusiastic and eager to put her training skills to work to help EMS providers pursue their career dreams and to ensure that Alaskans receive the quality EMS care they deserve.

For more information on this groundbreaking program and the opportunities available contact Kathy Griffin at KGriffin@matsu.alaska.edu or the website at http://www.matsu.alaska.edu/paramedic/ .

Polar Bears

MSC basketball team

By: James Wright, President

Mat-Su College Student Government is excited to announce the debut of our campus's first sports team: The MSC Polar Bears Basketball Team. The Polar Bears, one of several student organizations, plays their games at the AT&T Sports Center, participating in the center's adult coed spring tournament. The game schedule can be found on the MSC homepage.

Last November Dr. Kristin Owens, Assistant Director of Academic Affairs, approached the Student Government council with the idea of creating a student sports team. Needless to say, her idea was eagerly received by all.

Martin Müth sets up for a free throw during a game with the Wolverines. The Polar Bears' first win!

Student Government supplied the funding to create the team and immediately began advertising the venture. Student response was incredible, with over twenty students signing the waiting list before the official roster could even be compiled. Martin Müth, a student with a passion for basketball, took the initiative, organizing the group as the official team manager.

Ashley handles the ball during the Polar Bears' first game against Cole Investments.

Mat-Su Monitor

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Corrections

In our last issue we gave the wrong web address for Turkey Red. Turkey-redak.com is the restaurant's website.

Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman

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After the team was organized, the final step was picking a name. Several suggestions were submitted to Director Clark, who ultimately chose "MSC Polar bears," and the rest, as they say, is history.

Several people deserve recognition for the founding and success of the Polar Bears. Dr. Owens deserves thanks for her support and initiative; Bonnie Wendt for designing the attractive Polar Bears logo and providing publicity; Martin Müth for organizing and motivating the team; Student Government Secretary/ Treasurer Samuel Oh for actively publicizing the venture, and, of course, all the student players participating on the first ever MSC sports team.

English Teacher

Sherri Denison

by Alexandra Craft

When the students of Matanuska-Susitna College seek to find inspiration in literature, they need look no further than English Professor Sheri Denison. Since 2005, this brilliant and charismatic woman has been an inspiration to her students. Ms. Denison stated that she "loves the environment of a smaller school" as it gives her an opportunity to connect more closely with both faculty and her students.

A small town enables her voice to be heard when it comes to decisions that affect the school. Mat-Su College is a "Good fit" for her; however, Denison did not always call a small town home. Growing up in Redding, California Denison found the fast paced California lifestyle left much to be desired. While still a teenager she moved to Montgomery Creek and found, that despite how quickly the rest of California seemed to be moving, perhaps this was a place where life slowed down for a little while.

At the age of 17, Denison began her college education in Riverside, California attending California Baptist College. While attending college, Denison took summer breaks in Bethel, Alaska where her father had accepted a job offer. When flying over Bethel for the first time, she said that it looked like a "moon crater". She was not in Bethel very long when she began to experience the culture shock that came with transitioning from a fast paced, over populated environment to small town Alaska. It wasn't until her parents moved to Kodiak that she truly fell in love with Alaska. Denison completed her bachelor's degree at the University of Alaska Anchorage, where she met her husband, Raymond Denison. Denison, still thirsty for knowledge, went on to receive her Master's Degree in English from UAA and has recently completed her dissertation in Post Colonial Gothic Literature. She explains that her decision to write her dissertation on Post Colonial Gothic Literature sprang from her love of the 19th Century. She believes that this era is a very "niche market "as not much research has been done in this field. She hopes that through publishing her paper she may impart knowledge on the importance as well as, the appeal of the 19th Century. Denison expects to receive her PhD from Indiana University of Pennsylvania this spring.

In her spare time she enjoys drawing and, of course, writing. Denison completed her first novel entitled "Mind Shriek". The first book of her trilogy of soft science fiction works. She is currently working on her second novel entitled "Shattered Images". Denison stated that writing "enhances [her] ability to teach more effectively."

There is no doubt that this effervescent professor is a valuable asset to Matanuska-Susitna College. Her love for her literature radiates through her teaching style which is reflected in any student lucky enough to take her classes. Ms. Denison is a wonderful woman with a strong desire to live her life to its fullest. She is an inspiration to all who have the privilege of knowing her.

Dr. Ping –Scholarship

Dr. Ping

By : Brittany Maresh

The Dr. Ping-Tung Chang Scholarship was endowed in 2008, after more than five years of ceaseless work by Dr. Ping-Tung Chang and student organizations at the Mat-Su College.

The Math Club at the Mat-Su College Club decided they needed to honor Dr. Chang for his dedication and hard work to teaching mathematics, and for making the subject "anxiety-free." At the time, nobody dreamed how difficult it could be to open up a scholarship fund. Though Dr. Chang protested that he was still alive and thus not in need of a scholarship fund in his name just yet, the students insisted. The scholarship opened in 2002, and the students began an enthusiastic flurry of bake sales and fund raising activities.

The hardest challenge for the students was Dr. Chang's firm rule: no current student of his could donate towards the scholarship fund. Though they wanted to, the students had to put their efforts into getting other people to donate.

Perhaps the single most successful fund-raising venture was in appealing to the student clubs. The Math Club, the Asian Cultures Club, and the Student Government all donated generously towards the Dr. Ping-Tung Scholarship Fund, donating as much as $500 each year. The single most constant donator is the Palmer Lions Club, which has previously allocated $500 annually for this fund. With the staggering final goal of $100,000, the scholarship fund had to break its goals into smaller chunks to make it manageable. The first goal—the $25,000 minimum for endowment—was finally met in 2008. The scholarship is still working towards the current goal of $100,000, a goal that is far off in the future for this small scholarship.

The news about the fund seems good, however. The first scholarship should be given out Fall 2009, and with a little luck and a lot of hard work, the final goal should be met some time before 2020.

The Dr. Ping-Tung Chang Endowed Scholarship Fund (UAA Fund #80174, tax exemption #23-7394620) is set up through the UA Foundation. To apply for the scholarship, e-mail or call the UAA Development Office, Amber Gichard (anaaa@uaa.alaska.edu or (907) 786-1016). Though preference is given to current and former Math Club members, the scholarship is open to anyone enrolled in a UAA college, regardless of their major. If you are interested in donating towards this scholarship fund, please contact Dr. Ping-Tung Chang at pfpc@uaa.alaska.edu or (907) 745-9727. If you would prefer to mail in your contribution, please send it to:

Dr. Ping Tung Chang Scholarship Fund
C/o Dr. Ping-Tung Chang
Mat-Su College
PO Box 2889
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Team Art President

Thou Shalt Not Be an Artist

Art is life. Life is art. The two are inextricably connected. You live in art, you drive art, you wear art, and you eat food that is packaged in art; many times even the food itself is art. An artist had to decide on the type face, font size and positioning of the very words you are reading at this exact moment.

The Nazis understood the power of art; artists were among the first to be escorted to the concentration camps. During World War II, when the Nazis encamped in the city of Florence, Italy, they strategically chose an area surrounded by historically significant architectural landmarks; The Nazi commanders understood the fact that if these landmarks were damaged by Allied bombers, the world would blame the damage on the Allies and not on the Nazis. The Allied commanders told their pilots, "Florence Italy contains ten percent of all the world's masterpieces of art," and so our guys dropped their bombs so carefully and so precisely that the Nazi

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encampment was completely obliterated without any collateral damage whatsoever to those surrounding landmarks. Our guys, too, understood the power of art.

Architecture is art. The Nazis knew it, the Allied bombers knew it, and so do the students in the CADD classes here at Mat-Su College. Writing is art. Writers may not want to agree with this, but English is a language, and languages are patterns, and patterns are math, and math is art. When I left BYU and moved back to Anchorage, I had to change my major to art, since UAA did not offer an Interior Design major. Ken Gray taught my 3-D Design course at UAA, and I still think it should have been named "Intermediate Woodworking and Euclidean Geometry". Ken had to baby-step many of the students through the geometry, since most of them were very weak in that subject. I started out as an electrical engineering major at BYU, before I changed my major to interior design. Several years ago in a newspaper article, I read about Dr. Chang, who teaches math here at MSC. I immediately placed his name on my list of "Favorite People Whom I Have Never Personally Met." He has no idea who I am, and when I pass him in the hallways here, I have to literally fight the urge to throw myself on the ground in front of him, a la Wayne's World, while repeatedly bowing in obeisance and shouting "I'm not worthy" over and over again. Math is art, and Dr. Chang understands the power of art. He is one of us.

Science is art. J. M. W. Turner, one of the most brilliant landscape painters in history, was close friends with Michael Faraday. Art historians think that some of the patterns in Turner's landscapes were directly inspired by the patterns Faraday created in his experiments with magnets and iron filings. Art historians also use mass spectrometers, electron microscopes and radiographic imaging, among other technologies, in their efforts to analyze and authenticate artwork. Chemists are constantly working at creating new and better pigments and other materials for artists. Last October, at a workshop which was sponsored by the Alaska State Council for the Arts, we learned from one of the workshop presenters that more scientific grants are given to artists than to scientists, because artists are the ones who can best convey the ideas scientists wish to present to the world.

Football is art. I attended BYU from 1981 to 1985. I had the opportunity to see Steve Young play quarterback for BYU, and even I, who do not speak football, could see that the man could play. He combined some of the most outstanding playing ability I have ever seen with the movements of the other players on the field in a way that could be termed as nothing other than sheer genius. The man could play, and so could the other players on that team. They were performance artists of the highest caliber.

I recently learned that Steve, following in the footsteps of legendary BYU quarterback Jim McMahon, felt so humiliated by his poor throwing game his first year that he called his parents and told them he wanted to quit. His dad reportedly told him, "Okay, you can quit, but if you do, you can't come back home to live, because quitters don't live here."

Steve didn't quit. By his senior year in 1983, LaVell Edwards had coaxed the same Hail Mary passing game out of Steve Young that had made Jim McMahon a legend in his own time. Steve set a new NCAA record that year for his single-season pass completion rate of 71.3%.

Art is life. Life is art. Team Art, the newly resurrected art club here on campus, is working to reverse the currently prevailing myth that art is not a viable career option. We also see the potential for Mat-Su College to serve as a link between the community and the remarkable artists currently working and residing here in the Valley. We want to inspire hope in the young kid who asks his dad for money for art supplies and is told "no, we can't afford it" while his dad sits watching a football game on cable TV with a can of beer in one hand and a cigarette in the other. Meanwhile, mom rushes to make sure his brother gets off to football practice in time, because football is important. His sister is a cheerleader and another sibling is in the marching band, because cheerleading and band are important, because they support the football team, which is important. We understand, kid; we've been there, done that, and we're here for you. You can be one of us, but you must not quit, because quitters don't live here; artists do.

The Nazis, when they were forced to leave Italy, decided to leave a final parting gift to the good citizens of Florence. They chose to destroy a historically significant bridge which had been designed and built by Michelangelo, the man himself. It took three tries and plenty of explosives, but they finally managed it.

The Nazis understood the power of art.

GO KRAZY

By Jane Deuster

KRAZY MOOSE SUBS may not be new in town, but their location is. They moved from their original location on Wasilla Lake and are now located at 405 E. Herning Ave in the Teeland Historical Building in Wasilla. Delicious food, the very thing that launched the restaurant's success, continues to please Valley taste buds, and now customers can enjoy the wonderful atmosphere of Wasilla nostalgia.

The owners, Bob and Tammy Suders, opened KRAZY MOOSE SUBS a little over two years ago. Once their reputation for creating great subs caught on, there was no holding the lunch hour mob back! They continue to stay packed with customers by offering fresh

off the grill subs, fresh baked breads, sandwiches, homemade cookies, and for salad lovers they can make any of the hot or cold subs into a salad or a wrap. Bob and Tammy assure freshness by slicing the meats and cheeses right on sight. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 10:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Whether you dine in or take out, there is no doubt that once you eat at KRAZY MOOSE SUBS, you'll come back for more! Stop by and check out the menu or give them a call at (907) 357-8774 for take-out and delivery services.

Global Empowerment

By : Alex

Over the next twenty-four hours the world will make one complete revolution on its axes. During the next 86,400 seconds the wind will blow, the earth will shake, wars will be fought and lives will be lost. In the face of these realities there are truths that become self-evident.

We are vulnerable. There is nothing that we can do to stop a natural disaster. We are vulnerable in the sense that we cannot always avert a crisis. As much time and money we invest into being able to determine when the next earthquake will strike, or the next tsunami, there is nothing that we can do to prevent them from coming. People lose their homes and lives everyday to extreme weather conditions that we have no control over.

We are divided. On a global level our world differentiates into many different races, cultures and customs. We have extreme poverty as well as wealth; and even on a more personal level we have people who are self-seeking, and also people who are altruistic. We have our daily crusaders who come and try to break the barriers of race and social standing, but at the same time we have people who use the world divided to their advantage. They pander to their own fears and insecurities.

We are human. We make mistakes, we have faults and we choose to deal with them however we see fit, even if that means not dealing with them. Although some become crusaders in the face of crisis, many retreat to obscurity to lick their wounds and try to put the pieces back together. Many of us seek escape in alcohol, entertainment, and other hallucinogen means in order to desensitize ourselves from what is going on in the day to day. We become numb and shut down because of the extent of pain in the human condition.

It is important to remember that although we are vulnerable, we are divided, and we are human, we are not helpless. We do not have to be victims because we can effect change. The issues that our world faces on a daily basis are too big for one person or one organization to handle on their own. Although we are divided, we are uniquely designed with gifts and talents to compliment one another. Some are teachers, some are visionaries, and we can all make a difference.

I recall hearing a story about a little four-year-old girl named Alex. Alex built a lemonade stand in her front yard. Most children would have built a lemonade stand for their own personal gain. To buy that new bike they had their eye on, or that new pink dress-up outfit, but Alex was different, she wanted to help. She didn't want a new dress, or a new bike, what she wanted was the cure for cancer. Her inspiration spread all over the United States, causing "Alex's Lemonade" stands to materialize everywhere. Before her death, at the age of eight, Alex had raised over one million dollars to find the cure for cancer.

My entire life I have watched the news, and been exposed to the media. Even at a young age I would listen to my parents tell me the realities of the world around me. I felt that unless I knew what was going on in the world around me I didn't have the right to voice my opinion about how to change it. The good news is, whether you are four or forty you have the right to be educated and the right to a voice. You can make difference on a daily basis. Whether you start your own lemonade stand, or your own organization we can all make a difference. With the power of synergy we can unite to see a better tomorrow on a global level.

I am committed to making the world a better place for my children, so that someday, ten years from now, when my daughter gets out of bed, her day can be brighter and the community that she is a part of will be more secure than today's. On a twenty-four hour basis, our world sees famine, disease, poverty, and much more. These things happen daily, not only in the last year, but also in the year before and so on. It is my belief, that as a global community, we need to stop waiting and watching for someone to take the first step, and instead be the ones who make the difference.

Young Alaskans 2009

By :Bradley S. Lucas

The Conference of Young Alaskans (C.O.Y.A.) first took place in 2006 and was held to commemorate the historic creation of Alaska's very own constitution in 1956. The steering committee pooled fifty-five young people from all over Alaska from the ages of eighteen to twenty-five. After the fifty-five delegates were selected, they were all taken to Fairbanks, where they spent three days brainstorming, discussing, and debating over many different Alaskan issues. In the end, the delegates were able to compose a complete package which provided what they thought to be solutions to, or helpful steps towards, solving Alaska's issues to the Alaskan legislature. The conference was so successful, it was decided that another conference of young Alaskans should be held. The second Conference of Young Alaskans was to commence on January 6, 2009 and end on January 9, 2009. This conference was to be held at the Alyeska Resort in Girdwood. Once again, fifty-five delegates were chosen from all over Alaska to represent both the state and their individual communities in a conference which was to tackle some of the tough issues which had been plaguing the state. I, like many other young Alaskans, applied to be a delegate, and I was chosen to be one of the fifty-five delegates. It was a difficult three days. The work day would begin at seven-thirty in the morning and would not usually end until ten o'clock at night. During the time when we were not sleeping or eating we were engaged in intellectually stimulating debates or were brainstorming on such issues as energy, healthy communities, natural resources and the environment, just to name a few. After being separated into groups, we were tasked with creating a vision statement that encompassed,

in a very broad sense, all that we, as a group, intended to do. It was a seemingly simple task; however, it became exceedingly difficult, as the groups debated over the usage of words or the order of them. The gravity of these seemingly minute things soon became apparent to me as I listened to the compelling arguments made by each of my fellow group members. As memory serves me, it took my group approximately three hours to complete our vision statement. The next day, we were tasked with creating a list of ten goals, which were meant to be much more specific than the vision statements, yet not so specific as to give a date and or method of how and when these goals were to be carried out. Each group was assigned a room in which butcher paper was put up on the walls and the various members of the groups were encouraged to write goals or support goals which had already been written down. After the allotted time had passed for writing goals, each group then had to select ten goals which would then be presented to the group. The five out of the ten from each group which received the highest number of votes were selected. On the third day, we were tasked with creating a list of twenty action items which, by the same process of voting that the list of ten goals were subjugated to, were whittled down to ten from each group. After all of the afore mentioned tasks had been accomplished, and certain items were either amended or removed due to a challenge, the entire package was voted on as a whole and would be sent to the Alaskan legislature to be reviewed, and hopefully, some of the action items would actually be enacted by the legislature. Besides debating over goals, vision statements, and action items, there were also many guest speakers who came to the event. Some of them included Katie Hurley, Victor Fisher, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Lieutenant Governor Sean Parnell, Mr. Bernie Karl, owner and operator of Chena Hot Springs, Chancellor Fran Ulmer of UAA, Mark Hamilton, President of the UA system, and Dr. Sven Haakanson. It was a true pleasure and honor to meet, speak with, and listen to these distinguished and accomplished people who truly believe in the power and leadership of young Alaskans. It was a fun, unique, stimulating, and exhausting three days in Girdwood, but I was truly honored to have spent those three days with such concerned, informed, and vibrant young Alaskans. The connections I made, the things I learned, and the experience I had at the conference were invaluable. I strongly encourage other young Alaskans to participate in the next conference.

Subjective and Objective?

By : Kory Picard

Can we agree that there is a mix of nitrogen and oxygen that most carbon-based life breathes? Can agree that there is a big burning ball we generally (in this language) call "The Sun? Can we agree that there is One True God? Oh, now wait a minute.

It occurs to me that humanity has a way of blinding itself to or from unifying, objective truths. Many don't understand the difference between objective and

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subjective, and therefore often toss around terms and ideas as if a) they are absolute, and b) everybody else knows what they're talking about.

Let me get this straight: Subjective truth is the "it's true to me" truth. The "I just believe in it truth."

Objective truth is the "2+2=4" truth - true for anything and everyone, and does not need faith to be understood as absolutely, fundamentally, universally, and unquestionably true.

Many people pose subjective truths as objective, and even go so far as to say what is currently objective is false.

The greatest example is the endless debates between religion and science. Those who promote certain religions say that they've got absolute truth in their religion; they claim that the tenets of their religion are unquestionably true, but what has been shown in laboratories (where science, like 2+2=4 happens) is patently false. On the other hand, science allows for the uneducated masses to see one small part of the whole and take it as the whole itself. Such as a person saying Evolution! Darwin! In fact, Darwin had nothing to do with survival of the fittest. Darwin started speciation, and feeling that this one statement is enough to prove the point. Both sides of this argument generally fall short of objectivity.

Person A tells Person B that 2+2=4. Assuming that prior to this statement B knows basic arithmetic, B can see the evidence as logical. However if B does not know basic arithmetic, it then falls to A to prove his statement in order for B to then have objective truth.

Ultimately, we are basing our spoken opinions and truths on things we've been taught by someone who came before. Through this, one could make the statement that there is no collective objectivity because everything is based on the perceiver, therefore based upon the individual subjectivity.

In the academic arena, or in the lab, there is a constant ethos that asks: "we can agree?" If all present are unbiased, objective, and agreeable, then the thing or concept they're tested passes into scientific law as objective, universal, absolute, and unquestionable - until someone else can disprove that which supported the claims.

If everyone on the planet can agree that there is a planet on which we currently inhabit, but not everyone on that very planet can agree that there is One True God, how can ANYONE call their god's existence an objective truth, observable and indisputable to all?

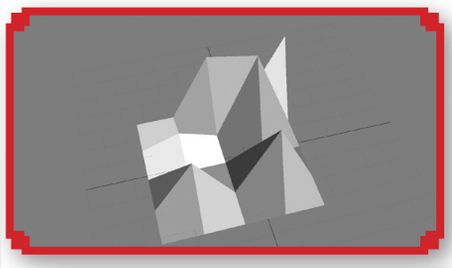
I've looked for answers to religion, and it seems I will continue to be looking for a very long time. For every creationist, evangelical, extremist, and intelligent design proponent argument that I've seen, I not only observe logical fallacies, I also observe ever more arguments against them, and the evidence against continues to build the more about our universe we discover.

3D Modeling

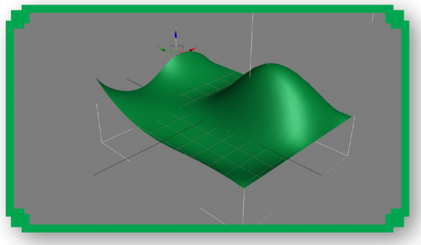
by : Joshua Tenderholt

The very beginning of animation started with a flip book. This is where animators flip through pages that create the illusion of animation. In order to produce this in a film, the picture must be captured onto a negative or onto a computer. A negative can then be projected on a screen, and when it is captured on a computer the animation can then be put together.

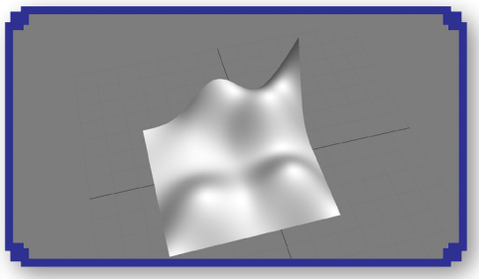
Another way of creating animations is to have the computer create them. 3D Studio Max uses modeling, animating, and rendering to create movies. Modeling is the process of creating objects by taking an array of points and putting a surface on them.



The most common type of modeling is polygon modeling. This type uses points, edges, and polygons to manipulate the geometry of the object.



Another more precise type of modeling is NURBS modeling. This type of modeling is almost the same as polygon modeling, except it uses a math formula to transitionally smooth the curve from a point to the next point.



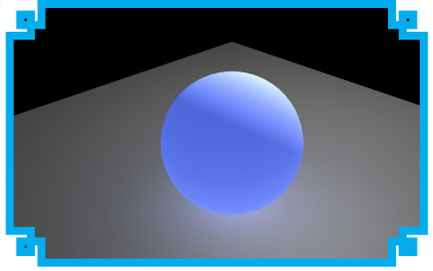
It is also possible to use subdivision, which is the process of using polygons and making them smooth with NURBS. The main difference between the two types of modeling is how the user wants to model the object. For

example, to create the model of a face, the user would use NURBS, but in order to create the model of a sword, the user would use polygons so that it is easier to define the edges.

The next step is animation in order for objects to interact with each other. Animation is a combination of the movement and rotation of a object or the manipulation of a object. This process is recorded by 3D Studio Max and can be played in the application without rendering the animation.

When modeling a character, the first thing that must be done is to make a group of bones. These bones get attached to the model, and the program calculates the movement of the points. From there, animators will make the model so that it has constraints which allows protection from, say, bending a leg backwards. Constraints will help to record an animation sequence by limiting the animation.

A model can have several animation sequences built. The last thing to do is to make a set of pre-recorded actions. This will allow the user to play a certain key frame set through the animation. All that is required now is to render the animation to a movie file.



Rendering is the final calculation for capturing a scene. This requires a camera and some lighting. Depending on the rendering technique used, the lighting is dimmed as it goes from the light source to the object and back to the camera. This technique is known as Ray tracing. For every key frame in the file, the program will render a screen. The normal play rate of video is about 30 frames per second.

A two-hour movie will have about three thousand and sixty frames. So depending on the time taken for each frame, this process can take a long time. Creating a movie is a very long and complex process because so many different techniques are used The most important thing to remember is to use the correct form of modeling; otherwise, it could take a lot longer to get done with the project. The process of animating an object will increase the time because of all of the constraints and animation sequences that need to be recorded.

The rendering might take most of the time because of how long a movie is and how many objects there are in a scene. This is why it is important to use the correct tools when doing a project like this. This will help decrease the time to make a project and will also help make the models look a lot better.

Cultural Diversity

By: Diana Moreira

When living in a small town, it is easy to develop a small town mentality. Many have lived in the Valley their entire lives and never realize the mixture of different cultures. Within a one mile radius of my Ecuadorian household live French, Korean, and many Russian families, all of whom have a significant impact on the diversity of Alaska.

Growing up in Ecuador was not like Alaska. There is no hunting, fishing, or snow. I did not have the opportunity to attend festivals, such as the Moose Dropping Festival, the Bear Paw Festival, or Fur Rondy. Ecuador is a very mild and warm climate, unlike Alaska, but I am now proud to call Alaska my home.

I have lived in Alaska for the past five years and graduated from Wasilla High School. English is my second language and the challenges have been numerous. Without the support of my parents, the students, and staff at Wasilla High School, I would probably not be attending college, at least not in Alaska. Living in theVvalley for the past several years, has been nothing short of wonderful. I have had the opportunity to meet people from across the United States as well as many foreign countries. It has been great to feel welcomed by so many people. Sometimes it is easy to forget where I started my life. Alaska helped me to get outside of my comfort zone and delve into the various other cultures living in this vast state.

Learning about different cultures and different ways of life helps us to evolve as a society and to reach different levels of tolerance and understanding that we might have not otherwise experienced. By being accepting and helping people to adapt to life in Alaska we do a service to our society as a whole.

As hard as it may be the valley as a whole needs to make sure not to forget about the world outside of our small town. We need to make sure to not forget that we can make a difference in the world around us, and we need to make sure that we remember we have the ability to affect our culture as much as it affects us. So let's make a positive difference to our world and embrace and celebrate the cultural diversity within our Valley.

Get up
Get out
Drop in.

by : Jordon Greer

"The time has come" the walrus said, "to speak of many things, of boots and boards, jackets and beacons, to tighten up your bindings". That's right, the coldest time of year is over it seems and it's time to get outside. Hatcher's pass is looking better by the moment and the sun is finally starting to give us enough daylight to get an entire day in on the slopes.

Sixteen-mile run, at the end of Palmer fish-hook, is getting enough snow and sun to keep it from icing over. Further up, around Independence Mine and Summit Road, has more

untouched powder than one could track up in a day. Be cautious though, because avalanche danger can be fairly high on the sunny side of slopes and increases as the snow heats up throughout the day, though this danger is nearly non-existent on the runs accessible by vehicle such as Sixteen and Paradise. Since the avalanche danger is so low on these "road runs", it is perfect for any skill level, even beginners.

Having never been to Hatcher's before, the easiest way to get started would be to have a sure-footed vehicle and a driver to drop you off at the top and pick you up at the bottom, repeatedly. Alternatively, most people park at the main, lower parking lot and hitchhike up, repeatedly. If you do decide to go up above the road runs, make sure you have the correct back country gear and training. If you feel like you have to brush up on your back country safety skills, a number of courses are available through different organizations including a Wilderness First Responder course, which I personally recommend. For more info on this course contact Deb at debajango@att.net. Also, the Alaska Avalanche School offers courses primarily geared toward avalanches. For more info on the Alaska Avalanche School go to www.alaskaavalanche.com.

Don't be deterred by the temperature down in the Valley, as it is almost always 15-20 degrees warmer up above the temperature inversion that sits around Palmer and Wasilla. Everyone could use a few extra endorphins and some good old exercise. Make sure to wax your boards and skis. Get up, get out, and drop in.

"Apocalypto" The Great Escape

by : Michael Hamman

Apocalypto is a film that is partly based on Maya civilization although there is quite a bit of fiction in the film there are some historical facts in it. Although the Spanish did conquer the Mayas, the time line for the film is not exactly historically correct, but since Apocalypto is a fictional it is okay to have a little imagination in the film. The plot trails the escape of the main character "Jaguar Paw" as he struggles through violence throughout the movie. This film portrays the gory and dark side of Maya culture as it shows the massacre of Jaguar's tribe.

The dark side of the Maya culture can definitely be seen with the human sacrifice as portrayed in Apocalypto. Human sacrifice although very gory and inhumane was in fact part of the Maya culture. The Mayas sacrificed people for a variety of reason; one of the particular reasons was for agricultural prosperity. Although the Mayas did sacrifice their slaves, they are also known to have sacrificed their own people because they considered it to be an honor to be sacrificed. According to Maya culture, being sacrificed insured an automatic entrance into the Maya heaven. Which the Mayas sometimes willingly went through so that they might be granted access to their heaven by their god.

The lunar eclipse which took place during the sacrifice, and saved Jaguar and some of his bothers, is an example of how the religious hierarchy has fooled people over the years because of the people's ignorance. As the Maya priests were sacrificing the slaves, the moon moved in between the earth and the Sun, and caused the day to be dark as night. The Maya high priest knew that the day light would return, so he asked the Maya god to let the light of the Sun to return if he was satisfied with the Mayas' sacrifice. Of course, it was only a matter of time until the moon had passed through the path of the Sun and the light of day returned. Thus the high priest fooled the people into believing that the Mayan god had heard him.

As Jaguar's father was dying, at the hands of the Maya raiders, he told his son not to be afraid. This final instruction is very interesting; apparently the Mayas had a very high regard for bravery. When a person is brave that does not mean the person has no fear, but it does mean that the person faces his or her fear, as we see in the case of this movie. Throughout the movie Jaguar faced many life threatening circumstances even though there were times when he was afraid he did not succumb to his fears. Had Jaguar given into his fears he would not have been able to evade his enemies. Often, when people are faced with death they show their character by how they respond, Jaguar showed his bravery when he suffered torture and was chased by his enemies.

For those who have an interest in the Maya people, Apocalypto offers a brief insight of Maya culture without being a documentary. Apocalypto shines light on a very dark chapter of Maya history in which human sacrifice was prevalent. The lunar eclipse shows how influential the priests were in Maya civilization. The bravery that Jaguar showed illustrates how important it was to the Mayas to be able to face death bravely. Finally, those who love to learn about culture many find Apocalypto to be very inspiring.

Building A Food System

by : Pete Praetorius

What is food security and how do we know when we have it? What are the ecological, economic, and health factors involved with localizing our food system, and what are the consequences if we do not? This talk, by Kim Sollien, Ally Barker, and Kathy Ciarimboli, will explore root cellars and pig tractors, visit a few local farms via photo journal, and discuss concept of vibrant local food systems as sustainability. Get a clear picture of agriculture in Alaska including how each of us can actively participate in strengthening this valuable renewable resource.

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